



COMMITTED TO IMPROVING
THE STATE OF QUEENSLAND

SUMMARY REPORT

Queensland Policy Leaders Series

The Hon. Kate Jones MP

Thursday 27 June 2019

7.30am - 9.00am

Customs House, 399 Queen St

Guest Speaker: The Hon. Kate Jones MP, Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games

Moderator: Jessica van Vonderen, TV Presenter/Journalist ABC News Queensland

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Breakfast Summary

The Hon. Kate Jones MP addressed the 2019 Queensland Futures Institute *Policy Leaders Breakfast*, outlining the Queensland State Government's future investment and infrastructure plans, targeted to ensure strong and continued economic growth. The discussion centred on investment in the key sector of tourism and its critical supporting infrastructure plans across the whole region. Developments in the global economy, technology and innovation were also highlighted, emphasising local impacts, not only for the South East, but also regional Queensland.

Throughout the breakfast, a number of projects facilitated by the State Government were discussed, highlighting the commitment to jobs, tourism and maintaining the state's globally competitive position.

The Hon. Kate Jones MP, Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games

- The State Government is committed to the long term facilitation of economic growth, assisting projects and enabling and incentivising innovation opportunities to drive new industry diversification and improved productivity, creating a strong sustainable economy for future generations. Despite the global economy facing headwinds, the Government has maintained a budget surplus and its election promise of creating jobs. 2019 is the 5th year of budget surplus for the state, during which time 200,000 jobs have been created. Queensland is an encouraging environment for small business compared to other states, with a competitive payroll tax threshold of \$1.3m. This has allowed 1,000 small businesses in Queensland to not pay payroll tax, supporting this part of the economy
- Tourism remains a key sector for the state, with a pipeline for infrastructure investment of \$49.5bn over the next four years. This includes projects such as Cross River Rail, which will not only improve transport for locals, but also encourage tourism and further investment
- The pipeline for tourism infrastructure investment is \$16bn. The Government has partnered with the private sector on 15 projects across the state, which will deliver \$100m in tourism experiences. This includes a new pontoon and underwater hotel development off Lady Musgrave Island, the Big Pineapple refurbishment, Australia Zoo camping experiences, adventure tourism such as the Wangetti Walking Trail, and the first Aboriginal whale watching tour, run with SeaLink. The First Nations Tourism opportunities are a unique offering for Queensland, providing a competitive edge over other states
- The upgrades to the region's airports, namely Brisbane's second runway, will further increase the state's global connection. Twenty-five additional international flights have been secured, bringing a further 2.8 million seats. This includes new flights with AirAsia to and from Bangkok, driving an additional \$2bn in economic activity for the state
- The Government has a significant leadership role to play in ensuring Queensland capitalises on new and diversified industry growth opportunities due to rapid advances in technology and the global competitive environment. Continued reviews of the innovation strategy are needed to continue to facilitate entrepreneurship and start-ups and improve the state's digital capabilities. This also provides strategic infrastructure opportunities to stimulate regional Queensland. An example of this innovation is the industry-leading partnership with Boeing, Federal and State Government and academia, which showcases Queensland as a global leader in drone, Automated Intelligence and robotic capabilities. Facilitating innovation is also important for the health industry, helping develop new products to improve lives

Questions

While regional Queensland is home to 30% of the state's population, it will only capture 13% of the new jobs in years to come. How can the State Government ensure necessary regional jobs growth and investment?

- From a tourism perspective, the main strategy for encouraging regional development is the focus on events across the year to attract international visitors. Examples of this are the recent Townsville Triathlon and Cairns Iron Man. These events stimulate demand for transport to the regions, increasing flight yields, hire car demand and enabling more competitive pricing – this is an important factor given the cost of travel constraints and impacts on tourism for the region

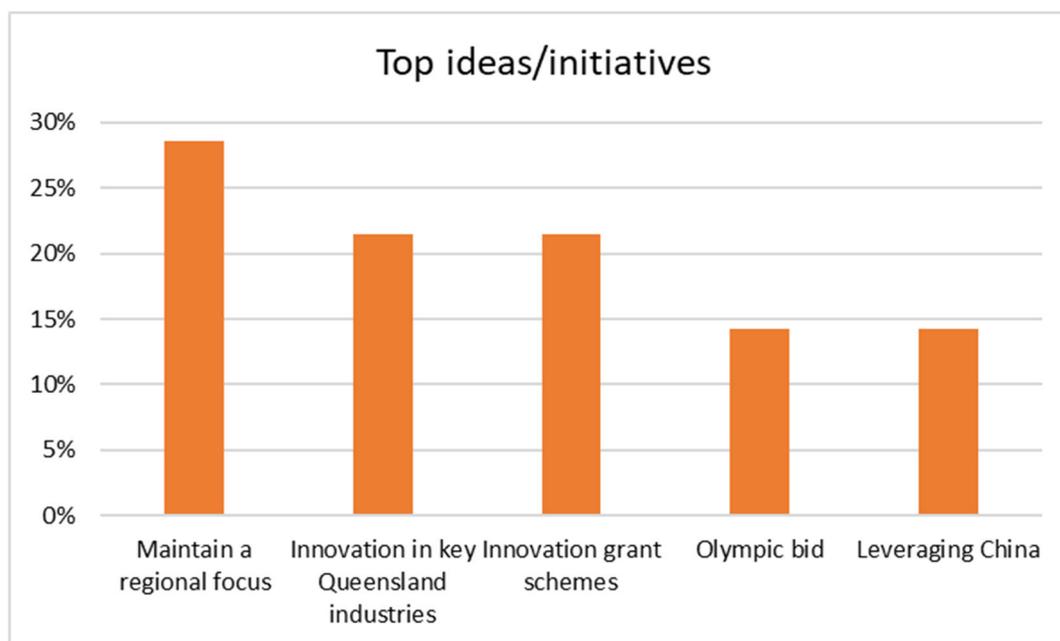
What are some of the considerations for stimulating innovation for the state, particularly around start-ups?

- The Government should encourage events which showcase the state's innovative industries and developments, such as coding events and incubator programs



- Procurement is always a challenge for State Government. As such, innovation is needed to balance welcoming small business and achieving the best use of tax-payer funds
- Government can focus on the key strengths of Queensland industry in many areas - the Smart State agenda, in environmental management, and in thinking about how innovation can help these industries moving forward
- The funding of start-ups and access to capital is an important consideration. A funding strategy to help foster start-ups would ensure access to funds within the state, without the need to use overseas funds. QIC may have the capacity to assist with this

Summary of Breakfast Comments



Summary of Ideas

- Maintain a regional focus, supporting small businesses and innovation outside of South East Queensland. Indigenous whale-watching and similar initiatives should continue to be encouraged. Additionally, maintaining an events-based agenda should be expanded as a proven method of driving further international tourism
- Encourage innovation in Queensland's key industries to maintain and grow our globally competitive position in AI, robotics, space technology and energy generation
- Ensure grant schemes continue to effectively encourage innovation, research and development across multiple fields. These could also be targeted to start-ups and/or regional areas
- Consider the region-based Olympic bid as an opportunity for the state's growth
- Leverage Asia, specifically China and India, not only for trade opportunities but also for tourism

The Queensland Futures Institute acknowledges the support of UQ Business School Commerce Honours student, Jordan Ferrari, for his summary of the Breakfast.

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